

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 14, 2000 LB 1328, 1379

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is advanced. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1379 was a bill introduced by Senator Beutler. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 20, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is a bill that expands for the first time the minority scholarship program to the state colleges and to the community colleges academic transfer programs. Some of you who have been here for awhile and others who may have read about it, I think you're aware that a citizen by the name of Dick Davis, a very successful citizen, has taken a very great interest in minority scholarship programs and has taken it upon himself to raise a lot of private funds for minority scholarship endowment programs. And up until this present date, or maybe to take it in chronological order, a few years ago he established the original program, I say he established, along with this Legislature the original minority scholarship program and it was just applicable, I believe, at one or two of the University of Nebraska systems. And money was put into that program by the Legislature and Mr. Davis raised several hundred thousand dollars of private money to add to that endowment, and that endowment continues to serve. A couple of years ago we put more money into the endowment and we expanded its use to all of the University of Nebraska systems, including prominently Kearney. So now what Mr. Davis has offered to do is to raise \$300,000 of private money if we would put \$1 million of money into a program that now would include both the state colleges and the community colleges, so for the first time in this state, we had a substantial endowment for minority scholarships at all of our institutions. The...I passed out some materials to you. I don't know how much you want to get into it, but I think there are some things that would be of interest to you in conjunction with this. I passed out one chart to you that shows that the average need that is not met by financial aid, this is a UNL chart, but it would be applicable to all of the schools, has been increasing substantially for the last few years. Probably